

REMARKS

Claims 1-25 are pending in the application. The Examiner rejects claims 1-4, 6-18, and 20-25. The Examiner objects to claims 5 and 19. Claims 1, 4, 5, and 6 have been amended. Claims 3 and 13-25 have been canceled. New claims 26 -29 are added. Claims 1, 2, 4-12, and 26-29 remain herein for consideration.

35 USC §102(b) – Yu

The Examiner rejects claims 1-3, 6, and 11 as being anticipated by Yu, FIG. 6 embodiment. The Examiner states that Yu discloses the claimed structure.

Claim 1 has been amended to more particularly define the invention. In particular, a claim element directed towards recessed areas has been added. The claim element is supported at paragraph [0017], lines 1 and 2; and paragraph [0018], lines 1 and 2. Recessed area 36 is shown in FIG. 4. Additional recessed areas are inherently shown in FIGS. 2 and 3, which show analogous strengthening wraps 60b and 60c to that of strengthening wrap 60a, shown in an exploded view in FIG. 4. Yu teaches no such recessed areas. Recessed areas are advantageous in that they facilitate a uniform outside diameter of the cue stick when the strengthening wraps are employed (see, e.g., paragraph [0018], lines 6 – 8).

Claim 1 has additionally been amended to more particularly define the “strengthening wrap” by adding the limitations of dependent claim 3 and further defining the screen as “metallic” and the material adjacent the screen as “non-metallic”. Yu does not teach the use of

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a metallic screen in combination with a non-metallic material adjacent the screen as claimed in amended claim 1.

For the above reason, Applicants request allowance of amended claim 1.

Claims 2, 6 and 11 depend from amended claim 1, which has been amended and is asserted to be patentable. Claims 2, 6 and 11 are submitted to be patentable for at least this reason.

Claim 3 is canceled.

35 USC 102(b) - Mancuso

The Examiner rejects claim 13 as being clearly anticipated by Mancuso.

Claim 13 is canceled.

35 USC 103(a) – Yu

The Examiner rejects claims 7-10 as being unpatentable over Yu.

Dependent claims 7 – 10 each depend, at least indirectly from amended claim 1, which is submitted to be patentable. Dependent claims 7 – 10 are submitted to be patentable for at least this reason.

35 USC 103(a) – Yu in View of You

The Examiner rejects claim 4 as being unpatentable over Yu in view of You.

Dependent claim 4 depends from amended claim 1, which is submitted to be patentable.

Dependent claim 4 is submitted to be patentable for at least this reason.

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35 USC 103(a) – Yu in View of Mancuso

The Examiner rejects claims 12, 14, 15, 17, and 20-24 as being unpatentable over Yu in view of Mancuso .

Dependent claim 12 depends from amended claim 1, which is submitted to be patentable. Dependent claim 12 is submitted to be patentable for at least this reason.

Claims 14, 15, 17 and 20 – 24 are canceled.

35 USC 103(a) - Yu in View of Mancuso Further in View of You

The Examiner rejects claim 18 as being unpatentable over the art of as applied to claim 17 above and further in view of You.

Claim 18 is canceled.

35 USC 103(a) – Chang in View of Mancuso

The Examiner rejects claims 16 and 25 as being unpatentable over Chang in view of Mancuso.

Claims 16 and 25 are canceled.

Allowable Claims

The Examiner objects to claims 5 and 19 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. The Examiner indicates that the claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

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Claims 5 and 19 have been rewritten in independent form as new claims 26 and 28. Claims 26 and 28 include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims except for the limitations that are presented in new dependent claims 27 and 29. Based upon the Examiner's comments, it is believed that new claims 26-29 are allowable.

No additional fee is believed to be due. However, if any fee is made payable by the filing of this paper, please consider this our authorization to charge the Deposit Account of the undersigned, No. 06-0540.

Respectfully submitted,

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